

FIRST LORD You have not given him his mother's letter?

SECOND LORD I have delivered it an hour since. There is something in 't that stings his nature, for on the reading it he changed almost into another man. 5

FIRST LORD He has much worthy blame laid upon him for shaking off so good a wife and so sweet a lady.

SECOND LORD Especially he hath incurred the everlasting displeasure of the King, who had even tuned his bounty to sing happiness to him. I will tell you a thing, but you shall let it dwell darkly with you. 10

FIRST LORD When you have spoken it, 'tis dead, and I am the grave of it.

SECOND LORD He hath perverted a young gentlewoman here in Florence of a most chaste renown, and this night he fleshes his will in the spoil of her honor. He hath given her his monumental ring and thinks himself made in the unchaste composition. 15

FIRST LORD Now God delay our rebellion! As we are ourselves, what things are we! 20

SECOND LORD Merely our own traitors. And, as in the common course of all treasons we still see them reveal themselves till they attain to their abhorred ends, so he that in this action contrives against his own nobility, in his proper stream o'erflows himself. 25

FIRST LORD Is it not meant damnable in us to be trumpeters of our unlawful intents? We shall not, then, have his company tonight?

SECOND LORD Not till after midnight, for he is dieted to his hour. 30

FIRST LORD That approaches apace. I would gladly have him see his company anatomized, that he might take a measure of his own judgments wherein so curiously he had set this counterfeit. 35

SECOND LORD We will not meddle with him till he come, for his presence must be the whip of the other.

FIRST LORD In the meantime, what hear you of these wars? 40

SECOND LORD I hear there is an overture of peace.

FIRST LORD Nay, I assure you, a peace concluded.

SECOND LORD What will Count Rossillion do then? Will he travel higher or return again into France?

FIRST LORD I perceive by this demand you are not altogether of his counsel. 45

SECOND LORD Let it be forbid, sir! So should I be a great deal of his act.

FIRST LORD Sir, his wife some two months since fled from his house. Her pretense is a pilgrimage to Saint Jaques le Grand, which holy undertaking with most austere sanctimony she accomplished. And, there residing, the tenderness of her nature became as a prey to her grief; in fine, made a groan of her last breath, and now she sings in heaven. 50

SECOND LORD How is this justified? 55

FIRST LORD The stronger part of it by her own letters, which makes her story true even to the point of her death. Her death itself, which could not be her office to say is come, was faithfully confirmed by the rector of the place. 60